

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL QUESTIONS RE: 2/6/2024 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Agenda Item #: 1D

Title: Accept Fiscal Year 2023/24 Transportation Development Act Article 3 Funding in the Amount of \$160,000, and Approve Budget Modification No. 12 to Appropriate the Grant Funding to Fund a New Project - Install Sidewalk on Poplar Avenue

Council Question: Attachment 1, page 7/12 indicates that the PS&E to be completed Jun/26. what is PS&E?

Staff Response: PS&E is an abbreviation for the preparation of Plans, Specifications and Estimates, which is also known as the design phase of projects.

Council Question: What is the expected timeline for the design completion of Install Sidewalk on Poplar Avenue project if the funds need to be expended within two years?

Staff Response: We are currently anticipating that we will have a consultant on-board to start the design phase by June of 2024 and the design will take approximately one year. So, the expected design completion would be in the summer of 2025.

Council Question: Will construction begin after the design is done or will funding need to be obtained through grants, general funds and other sources before proceeding with construction?

Staff Response: The project is not currently fully funded for construction, so the remainder of the funding would need to be secured before going to construction. As part of the design phase, the consultant will prepare a construction estimate based on the plans being prepared and the current construction bidding environment. Based on the construction estimate, staff will be able to better refine the funding needed. Staff will continue to review available grants and funding sources as well as the City's street/concrete funds, and any Green Stormwater Infrastructure funds. Once the funds for the construction phase are fully secured and the design is complete, then the project can be scheduled for construction.

Council Question: Does Staff continue to expect that the \$160,000 will be sufficient funding for the design phase? (Ref to RTC 23-0241.

Staff Response: Yes, due to the pre-work done as part of the study issue DPW 21-04 (RTC 23-0067) we are confident that \$160,000 will be sufficient funding for the design phase.

Council Question: When is the design phase expected to start and end?

Staff Response: We are currently anticipating that we will have a consultant on-board to start the design phase by June of 2024 and the design will take approximately one year. So, the expected design completion would be in the summer of 2025.

Council Question: Does Staff continue to estimate construction costs at \$895,000? (Ref to RTC 23-0241.)

Staff Response: Based on available information, we still feel that the \$895,000 is a valid planning level construction estimate. Our consultant will be evaluating and preparing updated construction costs as the design is further along.

Council Question: I tally about \$500,000 of funding toward construction costs if I add the \$177,000 we are “banking” from this year’s TDA-3 plus (hopefully) another \$336,000 or so from the 2024/25 TDA-3. Does that sound about right? What are potential funding sources for the remaining \$400,000 or so for the construction phase?

Staff Response: Yes, we will have \$177,000 banked from TDA Article 3 funds, each year the actual amount of TDA Article 3 funds received varies but we usually use about \$140,000 as a planning level estimate and expect about \$200,000 from various other projects that are approaching completion using less funds than budgeted. Other funding sources as mentioned previously could be street/concrete funds, Green Stormwater Infrastructure funds, General Funds or other grants that may be available before entering the construction phase.

Council Question: When is the construction phase expected to start and end?

Staff Response: We expect that the construction phase will last about 6 to 12 months and would start after design is completed and funding for construction is secured. Assuming funding is secured, then construction could start Fall of 2025 and likely be completed by the Summer of 2026. However, we will strive to align construction with summer break or when school is out to minimize inconveniences and impacts to students, so that timeline could shift as we work to minimize impacts.

Agenda Item #: 1E

Title: Award of Six (6) Temporary Personnel Service Agreements Totaling \$2,200,000 for On-Call Temporary Staffing Services for Plan Check, Inspections and Permitting Support Staff Services for Community Development (F23-168)

Council Question: I have heard increased complaints about different (non-consistent) plan check responses on each re-submittal of plans or issues with inspections.

What training and safeguards are in place to make sure that plan check or inspections by temporary personnel is being done to Sunnyvale standards?

Staff Response: Temporary personnel are vetted by city staff for education, certification, and experience for the appropriate temporary position before the consultant can perform plan checks or inspections for the city. If a discrepancy in plan check or inspection, either by a consultant or city staff, is raised to our attention, senior staff members review the issue and provide a decision based on the appropriate building code and historic enforcement by the city to maintain consistency in services. There are times when customers' responses to plan checks or inspection comments result in additional comments. The additional comments result from an expanded understanding of the project direction based on clarification provided by the customer during the project. Additional comments are driven by compliance with the building codes.

Council Question: Is there a general plan for how these services will be utilized? For example, only on large projects, small projects, or is this just a capacity enhancement to be decided upon later depending upon bandwidth needs?

Staff Response: The incoming volume of plan check and inspection projects exceeds the production capacity of current staff members. The Building Division has vacant positions that will be filled, and additional positions are proposed through the current budget cycle. Projects that exceed the capacity of staff are directed to consultants for assistance. Depending on the project size and scope, the appropriate consultant is chosen. Large projects are sent to consultant plan check firms so their staff with expertise in areas such as complex mechanical and electrical specialties can provide the services we need for the complex projects we have in our city. If questions arise from clients, we review the concerns and make determinations based on code compliance, then direct the consultant on how to continue their review. This process is followed with inspections as well.

Agenda Item #: 2

Title: Introduce an Ordinance to Amend Section 16.62.330 (Installation of Manufactured Homes section within the Floodplain Management Chapter) of Chapter 16.62 (Floodplain Management) of Title 16 (Buildings and Construction) of the Sunnyvale Municipal Code and Find that the Action is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15268 and 15308 and Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(1)

Council Question: Are any of the existing manufactured home parks currently located in an area that has flooded? If yes, will then the elevation as describe in this ordinance only be required if “manufactured homes that are placed, replaced, or substantially improved.”

Staff Response: The City does not have any repetitive loss structures within the city limits. This ordinance change is for manufactured homes that are new, replaced, or substantially improved in the future. This ordinance does not apply to state-controlled mobile home parks. The state has similar foundation elevation requirements.

Council Question: There are references that indicate in the 100-year flood areas and considering sea level rise which may include existing manufactured home parks areas. How will this ordinance affect those areas?

Reference: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/sce-authors/u18061/Sunnyvale%2BSLR%2BAdaptation%2BStrategy%2B2020-11-23.pdf>

Staff Response: This ordinance revision is for manufactured homes which are new, replaced, or substantially improved after the ordinance takes effect. Mobile home parks are under the jurisdiction of the state of California; however, the state follows FEMA requirements which are similar to this ordinance.

Agenda Item #: 3

Title: Adopt Positions on State and Local Ballot Measures for the March 5, 2024 Election

Council Question: Could staff elaborate more on the phrase in the analysis of Proposition 1 “...there is concern about movement of existing funding from a local level to the State level and impacts are to be determined...”?

How would the potential movement of existing funding from a local level to the state level be occurring?

Staff Response: Under Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), counties currently have choices about how to provide services. At this time, approximately 95% of MHSA funding goes directly to counties to use for mental health services; the rest of the money goes to the State to support mental health programs. Counties can only spend the MHSA money on certain types of services, but have flexibility in how to provide those services.

With the proposed changes under Prop 1, the State would get a larger share of the tax (approximately \$140 million) to increase state run behavioral health facilities and programs. Because the state would receive a larger share of the tax, counties would receive a somewhat smaller share.

The proposition also changes how counties provide services by requiring them to spend a dedicated amount of its MHSA money on specific programs such as housing and personalized support services. While counties can currently spend money on these types of services, they are not required under MHSA to spend a particular amount on them now. These changes may leave less autonomy for a County to make determinations based on the needs of its residents. Additionally, because the overall MHSA tax is not increasing, counties may need to use other county, state, and federal money to keep up current service levels of existing MHSA programs.

Agenda Item #: 4

Title: Adopt a Resolution Amending the City's Salary Resolution and the Schedule of Pay to Increase the Salary Range for the Director of NOVA Workforce Services

Council Question: Is funding for NOVA including the Director of NOVA Workforce Services salary done with no city funding and is the funding for NOVA obtained as a nonprofit federally funded agency?

Staff Response: NOVA is entirely funded by federal, state, local, and private grants and is not funded by the City of Sunnyvale directly. The funding for NOVA is obtained both as an agency functioning as a department within the City of Sunnyvale, as well as the NOVAworks Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) philanthropic organization.

Council Question: How much grant funding was awarded to the NOVA last year approximately and was the Director of NOVA Workforce Services instrumental in obtaining that grant funding?

Staff Response: Grant funding was awarded to both NOVA, the department within the City of Sunnyvale, as well as to the NOVAworks Foundation, the non-profit, philanthropic arm of NOVA. Some grants are formulaic while others are competitively awarded.

Grant Name	Award Amount	Grant Term
WIOA Adult	1,264,179	07/01/2023 - 06/30/2025
WIOA Dislocated Worker	2,026,871	07/01/2023 - 06/30/2025
WIOA Youth	1,246,037	07/01/2023 - 06/30/2025
WIOA Rapid Response	2,806,668	07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024
WIOA RR Layoff Aversion	503,398	07/01/2023 - 06/30/2024
CAREER NDWG	3,000,000	08/20/2021 - 08/19/2024
RERP	1,600,000	01/01/2023 - 10/31/2025
Irvine Hospitality Grant	575,000	12/10/2021 - 12/10/2024
Google Community Grant	250,000	11/30/2021 - 11/30/2022
Google Library Grant	50,000	10/06/2022 - 10/06/2023
Irvine Foundation Grant	50,000	No specific term - Awarded December 2023
LinkedIn Grant	50,000	10/10/2023 - 06/30/2024
Baylands Grant	20,000	07/31/2023 - 08/01/2024
Stanford Design Stipend	5,000	No specific term - Awarded November 2022
TOTAL	13,447,153	

In the dual role of Department Head for NOVA Workforce Services and Executive Director of the federally designated NOVA workforce development board for the region (which includes Northern Santa Clara County and totality of San Mateo County), the director is responsible for administering allocated funding (WIOA funding in chart) and pursuing and administering public and private funding to assure that Career Seekers and Employers throughout the region are receiving services.

<p>Agenda Item #: 5</p> <p>Title: Adopt a Resolution and Approve an Amendment to Housing Assistance Agreement for City Manager Kent Steffens Extending the Home Loan Repayment Term</p>

Council Question: As a recap, what some highlights of the city's major accomplishments last year under the leadership of City Manager Kent Steffens?

Staff Response:

- On March 20, the first Net Zero Energy all-electric city hall built to LEED Platinum standards in the country opened its doors to the public
- The Moffett Park Specific Plan was approved by the City Council in July 2023 after a multi-year effort that involved detailed study of existing conditions and outreach to stakeholders, advocacy groups, outside agencies and the general Sunnyvale community
- Completed and extended a pilot program for homeless services providing case management and shelter beds for unhoused individuals in our community.

- Began a pilot project with Wordly to increase language access at public meetings using an automated translation service that leverages artificial intelligence (AI)
- Formed four Sunnyvale Employees for Equity and Diversity (SEED) Subcommittees to address key organizational issues identified in a City organizational EAI assessment.
- Successfully completed rollout of food cycle organics program for multi-family residences
- Human Capital Management (HCM)/Payroll go-live was successfully launched on Jan 1, 2024

Council Question: Given the high cost of housing in Sunnyvale and previous Sunnyvale resident surveys generally indicating that the community has overall high satisfaction with the city of Sunnyvale, what are some of the advantages to this loan program encouraging the city's executives to live within Sunnyvale City limits?

Staff Response: The City's Housing Assistance program was initially enacted in 1981 to provide interim financing assistance for newly appointed Council appointees and department directors. The City Council believed that the interests of the City of Sunnyvale would be best served by encouraging new executive staff to live in Sunnyvale to ensure their ready availability and familiarity with the Community. The Housing Assistance program helps to recruit and retain executive management employees by providing a financial incentive for applicants interested in relocating to the area and/or purchasing a home.